



# State Senator **Luann RIDGEWAY**

## 2008 Legislative Highlights



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### Taking Care of Our Veterans

Senate Bill 830 limits the tuition charged to certain combat veterans to \$50 per credit hour for any program leading to a certificate, or an associate's or bachelor's degree.

House Bill 2010 allocates \$2.2 million for the Serving Our Veterans Program that provides mental health assistance services to family members of veterans and transitional housing assistance to homeless veterans.



### Providing Property Tax Relief

SB 711 protects homeowners by requiring all taxing entities to roll back their tax rate to offset reassessment increases. It also ensures that new voter-approved tax levies will never be applied to future assessments. Taxpayers will receive a projected tax liability statement with their reassessment notice to better prepare them for their tax bill in December. The legislation also expands tax relief for Missouri's senior and disabled homeowners.



### Fighting Illegal Immigration

HB 1549 fights illegal immigration in Missouri by cracking down on employers who hire illegal immigrants and ensuring public benefits are reserved for U.S. citizens and those legally within our borders. The bill also allows law enforcement officers to check the citizenship status of anyone arrested or detained in the state of Missouri.

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## Protecting Missouri's Children

SB 714 safeguards our children by increasing the penalties for parental kidnapping, reforming the state's sex offender registry database, toughening child pornography laws, and strengthening restrictions on convicted sex offenders.



## Student Scholarships

More students in Missouri will be able to pursue higher education due to a \$48.7 million increase to the Access Missouri Scholarship Program for a total of \$91.5 million in funding. All increases accomplished throughout our state budget have been made without any tax increases!

## Boosting Missouri's Economy

By dramatic reforms over the last four years, Missouri has gone from the top job-loss state in the nation to among the top job-producing states! HB 2393 expands those reforms by creating a tax credit program, spurring high-quality job growth in Missouri. The bill creates incentives for large companies to come to Missouri, bringing high-paying jobs to our state.

## Making Missouri Energy Efficient

SB 1181 moves Missouri one step closer to energy efficiency by strengthening the minimum energy efficiency standard for state buildings. It also creates the annual "Show Me Green Sales Tax Holiday," beginning in 2009 and running from April 19-25, when all sales of new Energy Star-certified appliances will be exempt from state sales tax.

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